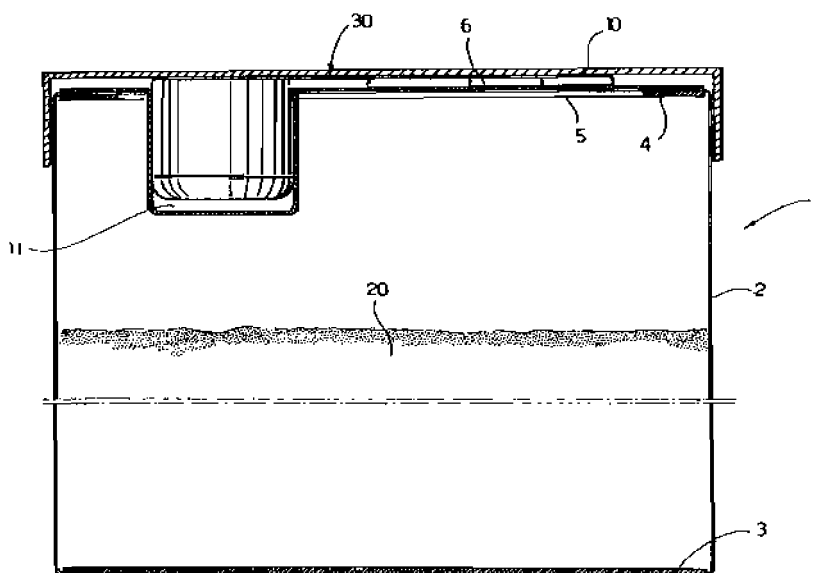


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(54) Title: CONTAINER FOR POWDERY PRODUCTS WITH MEASURING SPOON



(57) Abstract

A container for powder products (20), such as milk, coffee and the like, with a dispensing measure (30), said container being box-shaped and provided with a window (5) at the top for access to the product, sealed with a peel-off sheet (6), covered with a hinged reclosable lid (10), in which said measure (30) is housed, at least partially, in a seat (11) obtained in said peel-off sheet (6), which is made of flexible, waterproof material that can be deformed.

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DESCRIPTION

CONTAINER FOR POWDERY PRODUCTS WITH MEASURING SPOON

The present invention relates to a container for powder or granular products, such as milk, coffee and the like, provided with a measure to pick up the product.

As is known, there are numerous powder products, in particular infant's milk, but also
5 dietetic and other products, that are packaged in special containers, normally jars, provided with appropriate dispensing means, normally in the form of measures, to allow the correct quantity of product to be picked up.

According to the prior art, the measure is disposed in the powder product and packaged
10 therewith. Therefore, at the time of use, it must be recovered from inside the container, something which is normally done by the user with his/her hands, thus creating problems of product hygiene, on the one hand, and problems of soiling with the powder product that is removed together with the measure on the other.

15 Other known solutions provide the measure separate from the product and attached to the outside of the package. This creates bulk on the outside of the package, making storage and transport problematical.

The object of the invention is to eliminate the above drawbacks, providing a container for
20 powder products, with a measure for picking up the product, which is not in contact with the product itself and does not affect the overall outer measurement of the container.

This object is achieved by the container with a measure according to the invention, which has the characteristics of the appended independent claim 1.

25

Advantageous embodiments of the invention are described in the dependent claims.

Essentially, the container according to the invention is a container made of flexible material, for example of the type described in EP-522.326, or of the type described in
30 Italian utility model application No. MI93U 000510, which represents an improvement on the previous one, and is, for example, provided with a lid as described in EP-A-

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663.343, all in the name of the same applicant GOGLIO LUIGI. Such a container made of flexible material becomes stiff, thanks to the successive folding of the material and transverse and longitudinal welding of superimposed parts of the inner weldable layer, and thanks especially to the provision of two stiffening plates of injection molded plastic, 5 or cardboard, for the bottom and top, respectively, fixed inside the sheet material.

According to the invention, the measure for picking up the powder product is housed, at least partially, in a seat made in a waterproof deformable sheet that seals the upper opening of the container, and is disposed between this opening and a reclosable hinged 10 lid.

In this manner, the measure, or at least the most bulky part thereof, is disposed in the inner volume of the container, but without coming into contact with the product, being separated therefrom by the deformable sheet material that seals the container, and is 15 covered by the outer lid, remaining within the overall bulk of the container.

Further characteristics of the invention will be made clearer by the detailed description that follows, referring to a purely exemplary and therefore non-limiting embodiment thereof, illustrated in the appended drawings, in which:

20

Figure 1 is an axonometric view of a container according to the invention, in the closed state, with the measure shown with a dashed line;

Figure 2 is an axonometric view of the container in Figure 1 with the lid raised and the 25 measure removed;

Figure 3 is a section taken along the line III-III in Figure 1.

With reference to these figures, the container according to the invention has been 30 indicated, as a whole, by reference numeral 1.

It is made of flexible material, in particular of a multi-layer material, such as to make the container waterproof, and preferably with at least the inner weldable layer capable of being peeled-off.

35

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The container 1 is a parallelepiped in shape and is obtained by means of successive folding and longitudinal and transverse welding, with the method described in the above mentioned European patent No. 522326.

5 On the inside of the sheet material 2 forming the container 1, and in the bottom part of the latter, a stiff plate 3 (see Figure 3), for example of cardboard or plastic, is applied, advantageously by welding, said plate having a rectangular shape and substantially involving the whole of the base of the container 1.

10 In the upper part of the container, on the other hand, a rectangular frame 4 is provided, it also being advantageously made of cardboard or plastic and welded on the inside to the sheet material 2.

The frame 4 creates a large opening or window 5, which is covered by a sheet 6, applied 15 to the container 1 so that it can be peeled off.

In particular, the peel-off sheet 6 is a flexible, waterproof, heat-deformable sheet that is fixed with a seal of the easy-open type on the sheet material 2 of the container 1, in the area affected by the upper reinforcing frame 4, so as to seal the window 5. The sheet 6 20 has a frontally gripping flap 7 (see Figure 2), to facilitate removal thereof, or at least partial raising to gain access to the contents of the container 1.

Above the peel-off sheet 6, a reclosable hinged cover 10 is provided, as shown in Figure 2, advantageously made of cardboard or multi-layer material, preferably comprising at 25 least one layer of paper of the type described, for example, in the above mentioned EP-A-663 343.

The container 1 according to the invention is advantageously used to contain granular products, and more particularly powder products 20, such as milk, coffee or the like and 30 for the purpose is provided with a measure 30 for correct measuring of the product.

The measure 30 shown in the appended figures has a cylindrical cup-shaped receptacle 31 and a handle 32 but it is obvious that the shape of the measure can differ from that illustrated.

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According to the invention, for packaging of the measure 30 together with the container 1, a seat 11 is made in the peel-off sheet, advantageously by thermoforming, said seat projects towards the inside of the container 1 and is apt for housing the measure 30 completely or partially.

5

In the example shown in the appended figures, the seat 11 is a cylindrical seat and is able to accommodate the cup-shaped receptacle 31 of the measure 30, whilst the flattened handle 32 is disposed above the peel-off sheet 6, as can be seen in the section in Figure 3, or in the dashed line in Figure 1.

10

It is nevertheless obvious that the seat 11 can also comprise a hollow in the peel-off sheet 6 to house the handle 32 of the measure 30.

From what is described it is clear that the invention achieves the pre-set aims. In particular, the measure 30 is kept separate from the powder product 20 by the peel-off sealing sheet 6 of the container 1, and does not increase the outer bulk of the container itself.

- 5 -

CLAIMS

1. A container for granular or powder products (20) with a dispensing measure (30), in which said container (1) has an opening or window (5) for access to the product (20), sealed by a peel-off sheet (6) made of flexible, deformable material, characterized in that said measure (30) is housed, at least partially, in a seat (11) made in said peel-off sheet
5 (6).
2. A container according to claim 1, characterized in that said peel-off sheet (6) is of thermoformable waterproof material, and said seat (11) is obtained by thermoforming and is disposed inside the container (1), above or in said powder product (20).
- 10 3. A container according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said peel-off sheet (6) has a front gripping flap (7).
4. A container according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said
15 peel-off sheet (6) is covered by a reclosable hinged lid (10).
5. A container according to claim 1, in which said measure (30) has a cup-shaped receptacle (31) and a flattened handle (32), said cup-shaped receptacle (30) being housed in said seat (11) obtained in the flexible sheet (6), whereas said flattened handle (32) is
20 disposed on top of said peel-off sheet (6).
6. A container according to claim 1, in which said seat (11) obtained in the peel-off sheet (6) reproduces the contour of said measure (30), so as to accommodate it completely.
- 25 7. A container according to any one of the preceding claims, in which said container (1) is obtained from flexible material by successive folding and welding and is provided on the inside with a base plate (3) and a top frame (4), acting as reinforcing elements, said window (5) for access to the product (20) being delimited by said outer frame (4).
- 30 8. A container according to claim 7, characterized in that said peel-off sheet (6) is fixed to the container by means of welding of the easy open type coinciding with the area delimited by said outer frame (4).

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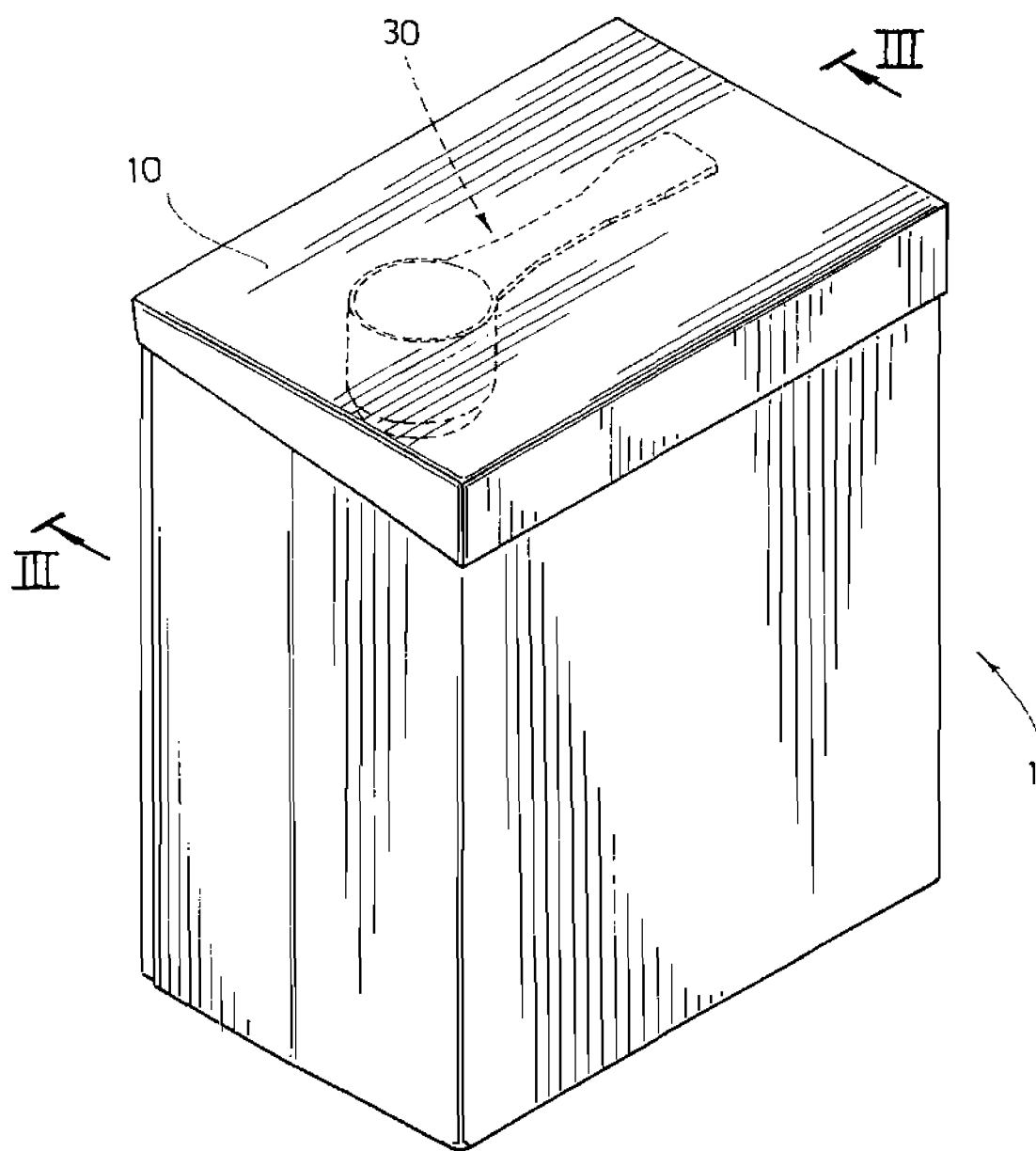


FIG. 1

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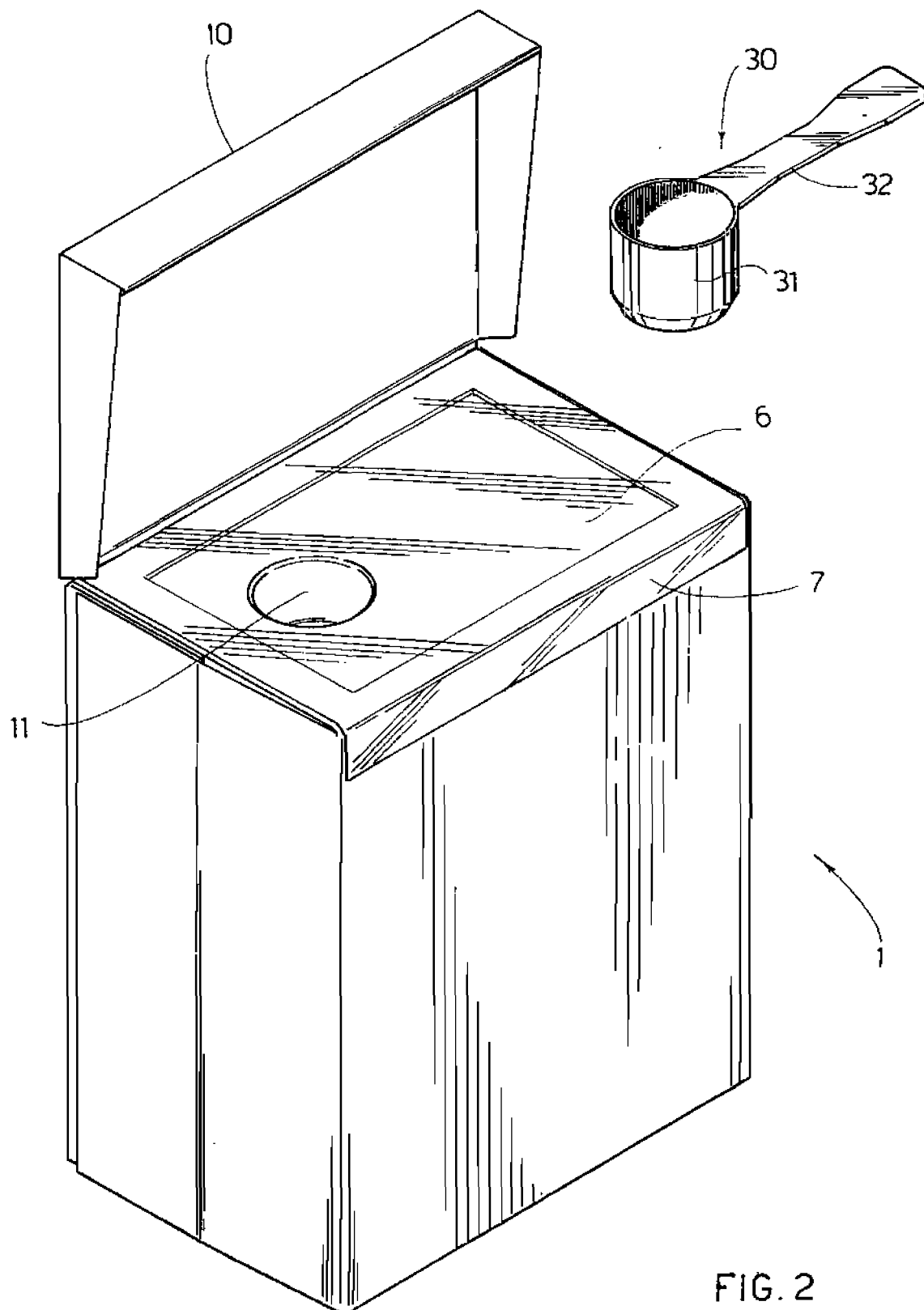
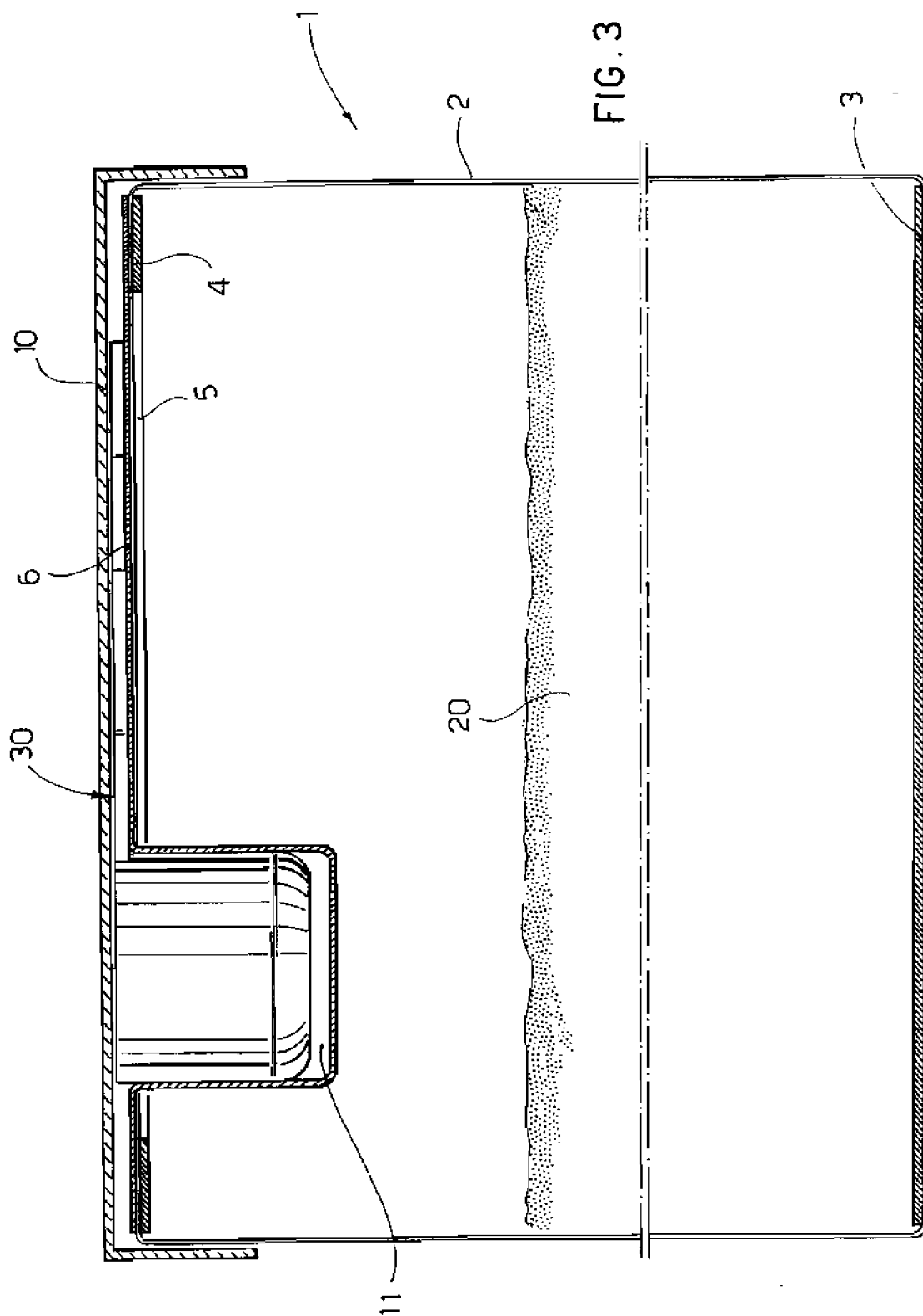


FIG. 2

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/EP 98/00466

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 B65D51/24 B65D77/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 B65D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	AU 466 274 B (FIRST DYNAMICS INC.) 29 November 1973	1,2,6
Y	see the whole document	3-5,7,8
Y	EP 0 663 343 A (L. GOGLIO) 19 July 1995 cited in the application see the whole document	3,4
Y	DE 84 11 045 U (ZÜCHNER GMBH) 24 May 1984 see the whole document	5
Y	EP 0 522 326 A (L. GOGLIO) 13 January 1993 cited in the application see claims 1,9; figures 1,2,4,11	7,8
A	GB 2 250 271 A (ROBINSON & SONS) 3 June 1992 see the whole document	1-8
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 98/00466

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